

# ARMY AND NAVY CHRONICLE.

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## CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENT.

### LETTER OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, November 26, 1836.

SIR: The importance of the subject, I trust, will justify me in respectfully requesting your attention to the correspondence of your predecessor, Mr. Cass, with Mr. Preston and Mr. Goldsborough, of the Senate, and members of the Committee on Military Affairs, relative to the proposed augmentation of the general staff, when the new bill for increasing the army was under revision in June last. The correspondence referred to, and the incipient measures then taken by the Secretary of War, will be found on the records of the War Office. As the time and occasion for a recurrence to this subject appear to be proper, it may be also useful now briefly to advert to the former organizations of the general staff of the army, since a retrospect to the well adjusted systems under obsolete laws may serve to show the importance of the Adjutant General's department of the staff at former periods of the service, and now aid in forming a more just estimate of its usefulness and relative value.

After various modifications of the general staff, pending the declaration of, and during the late war with Great Britain, the act of March 3d, 1813, provided for one adjutant and inspector general of the army, with the rank of brigadier general, and eight adjutants general of division, each with the rank of colonel of cavalry. The duties of a division adjutant general were limited to the particular division in which he served, while those of the adjutant and inspector general extended to the entire army; being then, as the adjutant general now is, stationed in the War Office, and then an indispensable functionary of that department of the executive government. The Inspector's Department consisted of eight inspectors general, each with the rank of colonel of infantry, and sixteen assistants, with the rank of major. [See organization No. 1, of the table.]

At the close of the war, in 1815, nearly the entire staff of the army was abolished. But such were the requirements of the public service, that President Madison provisionally retained such branches of the staff as were deemed to be indispensably necessary for the service. Of this provisional staff so retained, were the adjutant and inspector general of the army, and two adjutants general of division, each of whom was assigned to one moiety of the army, for duty, with the troops under the orders of the respective commanding generals; while the principal staff officer, with the rank of brigadier, continued to discharge his important functions in the War Office.—The act of April 24, 1816, confirmed the provisional arrangement of the President, and the staff, retained in virtue of his authority, was now incorporated in the permanent peace establishment. [See organization No. 2, of the table.] This organization of the staff, under the confirmatory act of 1816, was still less perfect than it should have been; and among other improvements, as seen by the act of April 14, 1818, it was further completed by the addition of another important officer, that of quartermaster general of the army with the rank of brigadier; and, like the adjutant and inspector general of the army, he was also assigned to duty in the War Office. [See organization No. 3, of the table.]

This efficient and harmonious system, which the experience of the war with Great Britain, and six years' subsequent peace, had tested and matured, continued in successful operation until the reduction

of the army in 1821, when the whole structure was greatly disturbed and impaired. The department of orders, and of military correspondence, of inspection, instruction, &c., was reduced, dismembered, and nearly broken up. The incumbents were disbanded; namely, the adjutant and inspector general of the army, the two adjutants general of division and their four assistants; and in lieu of these, one adjutant general was retained, on whom devolved all the duties of the central office of orders and military correspondence in the War Department, with the reduced rank of colonel; being the precise grade of the staff officer, which had been deemed formerly to be *no more than requisite* for a single division of the army.\* The only staff officer of the Adjutant and Inspector General's Department retained for habitual duties with the troops in the field, or in garrison, were the division inspectors general, whose services generally alternate between the eastern and western departments, a geographical arrangement analogous to the previous north and south divisions of the army. The four assistant inspectors were also disbanded under the act.

It cannot be doubted that the public service has suffered, and continues to suffer, for want of an adequate staff for service in the field, and habitual duty *with the troops*. This has been demonstrated in our recent military operations; and the lamentable deficiency, both in number and of the *proper description*, of staff officers at every point where troops, whether regular or militia, have been concentrated, or put in motion, is too palpable, and ought not to be doubted by any, whose duty it may be to know the wants and understand the true condition of the army. The military operations under Generals Gaines, Scott, Jesup, Clinch, Eustis, &c. and various official reports, show the destitute state of the service as to the inadequacy of the Adjutant General's, Inspector's and Quartermaster's Departments of the staff in the field. Like the diseases of the human body, which baffle the skill of the ablest physician when concealed by the timid patient, so, if the wants of the army be kept out of view, or remedial measures be unessayed, then the evils so long felt, and now much complained of by officers of experience and known devotion to the public weal, can never be cured. In order, therefore, to illustrate this subject, and with the view to spread some facts before you, I beg leave to make the following extracts from my communication to the Secretary of War, dated the 26th of June, 1836:

"While at St. Augustine, in command of the army in Florida, Major General Scott was without a single officer for duty in his personal staff; no one to act as adjutant general, or even perform the duties of aid-de-camp. And more recently, on changing the scene of his operations to the Creek nation, that general has been compelled, from the necessity of the case, to seize upon that excellent officer, *paymaster Edmund Kirby*, (who is always ready, and ever amongst the first for active service with the troops,) and assign him to the performance of duty in almost every branch of the staff. He is, at the same time, his adjutant general, inspector general, his aid-de-camp, and has performed duty as quartermaster and commissary; has mustered in and out of service, and paid the militia; all this when the execution of his appropriate duties assigned him by the paymaster general, required his presence elsewhere,"†

\* For superadded duties, see Adjutant General's report made to the Secretary of War, dated April, 1836.

† About this time, (the month of June,) the aggregate force under the orders of General Scott, in Georgia and Alabama, exceeded 10,000.

"In another point of the frontier, (the southwest,) Maj. Gen. Gaines, in his communication to the Secretary of War, dated Camp Sabine, 20th of April, writes—'At this moment, I know not an officer or soldier sufficiently acquainted with the *topography* of this whole line of frontier to be able to conduct a single day's movement upon it, without the risk of suffering severely from an enemy better acquainted with the country.' The same distinguished general, in another communication to the Secretary of War, dated the 10th of May, states—'I avail myself of the occasion, to request that legal provision may be recommended by the President, which will enable me to have an *assistant adjutant general*, and an *assistant inspector general*, permanently attached to my staff, by which means I should have, in the appropriate way, the services of my aid-de-camp, and be thereby relieved of much of the sedentary labor of copying, and of many other duties, such as usually, in all respectable armies, devolve upon aids-de-camp, but which have long occupied much of my time.'"

In his communication to the Adjutant General, of the 17th of October, 1835, being then in command of all the troops serving in Florida, Brevet Brigadier General Clinch states, that—"It is now nearly twelve months since I was placed in command of the troops in Florida, during which time I have had no staff, not even a private, with me, whose services I could claim except as a matter of courtesy. A colonel commanding a regiment has his regimental staff to aid him in the discharge of his duties; I, however, whilst assigned by the general-in-chief to an *arduous and important* command, have not even a confidential private to copy my letters and orders."

And, in his letter of the 16th of May, from St. Augustine, Brevet Brigadier General Eustis writes, that—"Major General Scott, being still indisposed, and having no staff officer with him, has directed me to address this to you." The like destitution of the service is seen at other points, and the consequences are now injuriously felt by Brevet Brigadier General Arbuckle, on whom has devolved the highly responsible command of the southwestern army, and the general direction of affairs on the frontiers of Louisiana and Arkansas. And that officer has neither assistant adjutant general nor inspector. Even an aid-de-camp, it is said, is not allowed by law.

To the testimony of the experienced officers above mentioned, I must now add that of my own, relative to the central office of the Adjutant General of the army, pertaining to the War Office, and as established at the seat of Government. And I deem it useful to remark, that for want of the proper denomination of officers of the Adjutant and Inspector General's Department in the field—officers who, from habit and experience, are conversant and familiar with the practical duties of this branch of service—no monthly return of the forces serving in the Creek nation, or in Florida, has been received from any commanding general of either army; and the War Office is now destitute of these important returns, which are not only now necessary for present use, but are also required for the archives of the department.

To supply these obvious wants of the service in the department of orders and military correspondence; to insure better accountability with reference to the *personnel* of the army, and of the militia when in the service of the United States; the rendition of exact returns and reports enjoined by the Articles of War and General Regulations, and of musters and inspections of the troops, militia as well as regulars, I respectfully submit for your consideration the expediency of requesting legal provision for the appointment of eight assistant adjutants general, four of whom to be of the *brevet* rank of major, and four of the *brevet* rank of captain of cavalry, each with the pay and emoluments of their respective cavalry grades; provided, that they shall also perform the duties of assistant inspectors general, when the exigencies of the service may require.

Even in a state of peace and perfect tranquillity at every point of our widely-extended western frontier, yet, ever liable as these are to be disturbed, the public interest now, and at all times, requires the habitual services of not less than five or six of the class of staff officers herein proposed to be provided for. Of this class, two should always be on duty with the commanding general of the western department; one, but preferably two, should serve under the orders of the general commanding the eastern department; and the presence of one, if not two, with the officer, of whatever rank he may be, charged with the immediate command and conduct of affairs on the southwestern frontiers, is indispensably necessary. To insure *exact uniformity and regularity of official action* in the central office of orders, military correspondence, and of the initiatory duties relative to "military commissions" in the War Department, it is also necessary that one assistant adjutant general, but *preferably two*, should be assigned to duty there, in lieu of the two officers, which the necessities of the case, now and for several years past, require to be taken from their regiments for duty as acting assistants to the Adjutant General of the army.

As the number of officers of the line is fully adequate, in my humble opinion, to furnish the officers necessary to fill appointments in the staff which may be clothed with *rank* in the army, I respectfully recommend that the provisions of the 4th section of the "Act for the better organization of the general staff of the army," approved March 3d, 1813, be made applicable by law to the assistant adjutants general, should authority for their appointment be granted by Congress.\* A recurrence to this salutary practice, adopted in time of war, and continued until very recently, will not only best subserve the *public* interest in every military point of view whatever, but, widening the field by guarantying promotion in the line, would thereby enable the Executive to make the best selections for all subordinate staff appointments. For, it should not be doubted, if subordinate appointments in the staff be only granted at the price of the regimental commission, the *most competent*, active, and aspiring young officer, who regards the army as his profession, and who looks forward to the chances of better advancement and higher rank in the line than can be opened to him by any staff organization, would reject, unhesitatingly, the boon at such a sacrifice. This is no fiction, for the records show that the case has occurred. Again, if economy is to be at all regarded, (and it may, perhaps, be the least considered in any question of the public good,) the additional annual expense of the assistant adjutants general, if taken from the line, would only be \$7,524, being the difference of pay between the grades of the line and the staff officers herein proposed to be taken equally from the captains and subalterns. If these eight staff appointments be not based upon commissions in the line, then the requisite annual appropriation would be \$15,100.

In affirming that the number of officers of the line is adequate to the supply of staff appointments which may confer rank in the army, the opinion should be qualified with the proviso, that the employment of the officers of the line away from their regiments and companies should be restricted to the military staff of the army proper; and that the practice of assigning them to any description of business not congenial to the spirit and character of military duty proper, be discontinued. I may here appropriately remark, that, to the *long separation* † of so many officers from the troops, and their subsequent estrangement

\* Vide Table A—and "Remarks."

† There are instances of officers being separated from their companies for ten, twelve, and even fifteen years. And there are also instances of officers holding commissions in the army for several years, who resigned without ever having joined, or performed any military duty with the army.



ment from all military duty by reason of their more civil vocations, which gradually, but surely, allure them into other pursuits in the reasonable hope of better fortune than can await them in the army, should they return to it, may, probably, be ascribed one of the causes of many of the resignations tendered during the present year. Of the number of officers absent in the interior, whose civil pursuits may have been interrupted, had they joined their regiments on the frontiers when required to do so by recent orders, many resignations were tendered almost immediately on receiving the order, and others were forwarded almost immediately after complying with its first mandate.

The right of an officer to quit the army under ordinary circumstances, with a view to the improvement of his fortune and prospects in life, may not be doubted. But the *policy* of our system (now beginning to be corrected by "General Order" 69, of October 15,) which separates him *for years* from the line of his profession, and employs him on business which teaches him so to rate the value of his commission, as often to throw it up when remanded to his regiment under any requirement of the public service, must be admitted to be greatly at variance with the true interest and primary object for which it is presumed that the army was created and destined to subserve. And, if this system of indiscriminate and onerous detail of so many officers for business which estranges them from the line of their professional duties be continued, the army certainly must become less and less efficient for active field service at any crisis which may arise. In respectfully adding incidentally these remarks, I speak as one who looks only to the *efficiency* of the *army*, with a view to the fulfilment in the best manner of all the high duties which it may be supposed to owe to the republic—as an institution, for whose military service it was created, and by which its members have been educated with a view to the national defence.

I respectfully submit herewith table A, which may be useful for general reference, as it comprises a relative view of the three branches of the general staff, at the several periods of our military history therein specified; to wit, 1st, during the late war, or according to the act of March 3d, 1813; 2d, after the first years of peace, as provided by the act of April 24th, 1816; 3d, as altered and increased by the act of April 24th, 1818; 4th, as reduced and dismembered by the act of March 2d, 1821; and 5th, as provided for by existing laws.

My remarks relative to the proposed increased staff, it will be seen, are, for proper reasons, restricted to the Adjutant General's Department, as the wants in other branches have doubtless been communicated by the respective chiefs, who best understand the description and measures of all necessary augmentation.

I am, sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

R. JONES.

*Adjutant General of the Army.*

**The Hon. B F. BUTLER.**

*Secretary of War.*

[For Table see next column.]

**APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR.**—William Doherty to be Adjutant General of the Militia of Ohio.

William J. M'Kinney of Montgomery county, and Charles Whittlesey of Geauga county, to be Aids-de-camp to the Governor and Commander-in-chief.

Rufus Hodges, of Hamilton county, to be Paymaster General of the Militia of the State.—*Cincinnati Whig*, Jan. 27.

**TABULAR STATEMENT of the number and rank of the commissioned officers of the Adjutant General's, Inspector's, and Quartermaster's Departments of the staff of the Army, having military rank, at the several periods of the service designated by the acts authorizing the several organizations.**

Period of organization and date of the act.	Adjutant General's Department.	Inspector General's Department.	Quartermaster General's Department.
(No. 1.) March 3, 1813.	1		
(No. 2.) April 24, 1816.	1		
(No. 3.) April 14, 1818.	1		
(No. 4.) March 2, 1821.	1		
Provided by existing laws,			
	Adjutant and Inspector General, with the rank of Brigadier General.		
	Adjutants General, with the brevet rank of Colonel of Cavalry.		
	Assistant Adjutants General, with the brevet rank of Major of Cavalry.		
	Total.		
	Inspectors General, with the brevet rank of Colonel of Infantry.		
	Assistant Inspectors General, with the brevet rank of Major of Cavalry.		
	Total.		
	Quartermaster General, with the rank of Brigadier General.		
	Quartermaster General, with the brevet rank of Colonel of Infantry.		
	Deputy Quartermasters General, with the brevet rank of Major of Cavalry.		
	Quartermasters, with the rank of Major.		
	Ass't Deputy Quartermasters General, with the brevet rank of Captain of Infantry.		
	Total.		

*Remarks.*—1. All the officers of the Adjutant and Inspectors General Department during the war and after the peace, inclusive of March 2, 1821, when the peace establishment was reduced, held rank in the army (except the Adjutant and Inspector General of the army) in virtue of commission by *brevet*. 2. According to the provisions of the act of March 3, 1813, the Quartermaster General attached to the principal army, held the *brevet* rank, &c. of Brigadier General. 3. Of the sixteen Colonels of the staff, of whom *eight* were *Adjutants* General, and *eight Inspectors* General of Division, all except *three* were taken from, and held rank in, the line of the army, contemporaneously with their commissions and *brevet rank in the staff*, according to the provision of the 4th section of the "Act for the better organization of the general staff of the army," approved March 3, 1813. And the thirty-two *Assistant Adjutants* and *Assistant Inspectors General* having the *brevet* rank of Major, were required by the act to retain their regimental commissions.

R. JONES, *Adj. General.*

**November 26, 1836.**

## MISCELLANY.

*From the Darien Telegraph, 31st Jan.*

## DOBOY BAR.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN CAPTAIN RAMSAY, U. S. N., AND DR. JAMES TROUP, MAYOR OF DARIEN.

We would draw public attention to the following correspondence. The standing of Capt. Ramsay in the Navy, entitles his report to the credence of all. He has stated facts that cannot be disputed.

DARIEN, Nov. 3, 1836.

SIR:—At a meeting of the citizens of Darien, held at the Court House, a few days back, I was requested to solicit you to survey the Bars of Sapelo and Doboy, if you find it convenient to do so.

At the same time, I tender you, on behalf of the citizens, every assistance in their power to afford you in the present state of your vessel. The steamer Ocmulgee is at the disposal of the Committee, to tow you to Doboy. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES TROUP,  
Mayor of Darien.

Capt. RAMSAY, U. S. brig Porpoise,  
St. Simon's Sound.

U. S. BRIG PORPOISE, Jan. 1837.

SIR:—Your invitation, and which now I have the honor to acknowledge, that I should institute a course of observations upon Doboy and Sapelo Bars, so far as to the former has been executed, and I must beg to express to you the regret which I feel, that I cannot render upon a subject of such importance, such a report as facts and circumstances to be cited, would bear me through with. I must refer only to the capacity, the convenience of your Bars, and perhaps the most satisfactory recourse will be found in direct reference to the bearing under which the soundings were made, that should there be hereafter either the curiosity, or an interest to know that the Bar had been accurately observed upon, you have before you the points upon which the determination was reached.

Upon the Bar, and in running out and in, the observations have all, calculations upon tide considered, corresponded; hence any one day's result will suffice for the whole. The occasion to which I shall refer, was a period of small water, the wind for the several preceding days strong from the westward.

On the Bar, the Beacons bearing W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. Sapelo Light House W. N. W.—Little St. Simon's extreme point  $\frac{1}{2}$  W.—Easternmost point of Blackbeard, N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. there were 20 feet—Ranging to the Southward upon a S. W. by S. course and beyond where the Pilots cross, the soundings improved unto 21 feet. The tide fell, but less than I had before seen it. The inner Buoy W. by N. 2 miles. The Beacons West Light House on Sapelo, N. W. by W. S. W.—I brought in 21 feet. The Beacons exhibiting under the bearings and soundings quoted, the appearance of a schooner under weigh. Ships may haul in West with this water, and increase their soundings, as immediately they will do, to 4 fathoms with good anchorage.

Approaching the Bar diagonally, and within two miles, is Wolf Island Spit, the only difficulty with which to contend upon an entrance to Doboy, and this not an affair when the Spit shall have been marked. Keep open a small Hammock on the end of Sapelo, until you have cleared the Spit, then haul in for the light as near as you please. There is no impediment. Wolf Island Spit makes inconvenience only to persons who have not been on the Bar, on which, as on the chimneys and the flats upon Doboy, there should be Buoys. With such indications, safe conduct will be afforded the most inexperienced, without a pilot into the inner Roads, with water on

ordinary tides of 20 feet, and with the best accommodations after they reach the Island which I have seen on the coast for ships and for the transit of their cargoes.

I consider both Bars perfectly safe, well and beautifully marked by Light House, by Beacons, and will give, (readily,) admission to any corvette in the American Navy.

I have noted the tides to neap 6 feet to spring 10—Capt. Madison's observations upon Sapelo, place the neap tides at 7 and a half. The spring at 9 and a half, so that the range to Sapelo, on common tides is 27 and a half feet. With the existence of a tolerable police on Doboy, and which would exclude the admission of persons not under permission to land, there would be no point so favorable to the purposes of shipment. Masters of vessels would have always the certainty of keeping their crews, and from the temptations of town; and Darien of creating for herself independently a trade, and which is now lost to her by the direction of her staples elsewhere than abroad. The impression against the Bar of Doboy should be disabused, and there is no question if the citizens of Darien would encounter the trouble to have a proper understanding in England, of the capacity of their Bar, but that results the most favorable would be reached—such a direct trade, and the appropriation to themselves of advantages now sacrificed by the shipment of their cotton and Rice to home markets. There is no merchant ship which can be interrupted in her egress from Doboy. The Brighton, with 1700 bales, went yesterday to sea, and before sunset had reached a fine offing. This vessel crossed the Bar with the Porpoise; her cargo was of Salt, she was deeply laden, and her commander informed me that she drew 17 feet, and to adopt his own words "he never had a more comfortable time." The Brighton is an English barque, and commanded by an experienced and old ship master.

I have delayed until now, Sir, an expression of my opinion of Doboy, in the hope that I should accomplish the interesting object of an examination of Sapelo, and in the last hour, and when the possibility is precluded, I am left to lay before you, and very cursorily the result of my effort to define, I hope accurately, as far as I have gone.

Of Sapelo much may be said. Its advantages are well known to such as are familiar with the southern coast. It was surveyed many years since by Lient. Commandant Madison, who represents 20 feet on the Bar at low water. In addition to the perfect confidence which I would place upon the work of Lieutenant Madison, with whom I was associated during the war, I have been further enlightened by the intelligence of Mr. Spalding, of Sapelo, whose account of this Bar, as of the conveniences within, places upon me the conviction of its peculiar importance. Sapelo Inlet has additionally the advantages of connection through Southerland's Bluff with the main with water for any purpose. Than Mr. Spalding no man has boated more, none who has a further knowledge of the coast, none upon whose impressions I could better rely. They afford me of these waters an account of high interest.

In the frequent intercourse, which I have enjoyed with Mr. Spalding, I have heard him repeatedly refer to a certificate of Capt. Roberts, one of the oldest masters in the British Navy, and who knew Sapelo well. Captain Roberts says, he could bring over Sapelo Bar any ship, "the San Joseph excepted," in his Majesty's Navy. The San Joseph he could bring in by tipping her.

In all the attempts which I have made to get to Sapelo, and I am sorry that I should have failed, I have been frustrated either by the weather or the difficulty in the means to reach the Bar. My crew is very limited, and the boats of the Porpoise, from their exposure, not in a condition to attempt the operation; and I am obliged, as the Porpoise is in readiness for sea,



and the government desirous for her return, to leave the coast; and in doing which, I must beg you, Sir, in your own person, to accept from me all things, and to express to the citizens of Darien, the grateful sense which I shall carry with me, as well for their hospitality as for the manifestation which they have made, to facilitate the repairs of my command.

I pray you to believe, Sir, the high consideration with which I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM RAMSAY.

Dr. JAMES TROUP, Mayor of Darien.

*From the New York Express.*

MUSCAT—ITS FLEET, AND TRADE.—If any of our readers were told that the Sultan of Muscat had a navy about as large as ours they might be very incredulous, till they looked at facts. But, nevertheless, the Sultan has a powerful navy. We gather from a "Digest of existing Commercial Regulations of Foreign Countries, with which the United States have intercourse,"—a most valuable work by the way, printed by order of Congress,—the following statement of the naval force of the Sultan of Muscat.

NAMES.	RATES.	WHERE BUILT.	STATION.
Liverpool	74	Bombay	Zanzibar
Shah Allum	56	do	do
Caroline	40	Rangoon	Muscat
Prince of Wales	36	Dreman	do
Henningshaw	36	Cochin	Calcutta
Piedmontese	32	Muscat	Muscat
Mossapa	24	Cochin	do
Rahmani	22	Bombay	do
Falke	18	Demaun	Bombay
Soliman Shah	18	Muscat	Muscat
Curlew brig	12	Bombay	do
Psyche do	12	Cochin	do
Sage yacht	6	Malabar Coast	Zanzibar
Vestal	6	Muscat	Muscat
Elphinstone	6	Bombay	Bombay

Also 50 baghelas caraying from 8 to 18 guns; and 10 balits, carrying from 4 to 6 guns. The baghela is a one-masted vessel of from 200 to 300 tons. The balit is also a one-masted vessel, from 100 to 200 tons. Part of these vessels are used to convoy vessels to the Persian Gulph, and some are in Africa, &c.

Thus it is seen that the Sultan of Muscat is a powerful Prince. He possesses a more efficient naval force than all the native Princes combined from the Cape of Good Hope to Japan. His possessions in Africa stretch from Cape Delagado to Cape Guardafui; and from Cape Adea in Arabia to Ras el Haud; and from Ras el Haud they extended along the North coast of Arabia, or the coast of Aman, to the entrance to the Persian Gulf, and he claims also the sea coast and islands within the Persian Gulf, including the Bahrein islands, and the Pearl Fishery contiguous to them, with the Northern coast of the Gulf as low down as Scindy.

The vessels of the Sultan trade not only with his own ports in Africa, and the valuable islands of Monpeea, Zanzibar, Pemba, and Socotra, but also to Guzerat, Surat, Demann, Bombay, Bay of Bengal, Ceylon, Sumatra, Java, the Mauritius, the Comoro Islands, Madagascar, and the Portuguese Possessions, bringing Indian, African, and European articles. About two thousand vessels are thus engaged in this trade, of which a very large proportion are small craft, to be sure. The naval force of the Sultan gives him entire control over all the ports in East Africa, the Red Sea, the coast of Abyssinia, and the Persian Gulf. This force consists, it seems, of between 70 and 80 sail of vessels, carrying from 74 guns to 4. The officers of this force practise lunar observations, and have excellent chronometers.

Since our treaty with the Sultan in 1835, our vessels are beginning to push an advantageous trade there, though they encounter formidable competitors in the

British, who enjoy great advantage from their Indian possessions. The exports are gum copal, aloes, gum arabic, ivory, tortoise shell, hides, beeswax, cocoa, rice, ghee, dates, raisins, and a great variety of drugs.

#### REVOLUTIONARY REMINISCENCES.

Among the petitions presented in the House of Representatives of the United States on Monday, Jan. 30, and referred, was the following, by Mr. REED:

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:*

The petition of Mary Hillman, of Tisbury, in the State of Massachusetts, begs leave to represent to your honorable body, that about the year 1776, the British ship of war called (she believes) the Unicorn, arrived at Holmes's Hole, and after landing upon the island of Martha's Vineyard a party of armed men, that kept in check a few armed citizens assembled under the command of one Captain Nathan Smith, and then pressing a number of pilots belonging to the island to go on board said ship to serve against their country; said ship was in want of a spar for her use, and the only stick of timber that could be procured was a liberty pole, (so called,) before that time erected by the citizens, being a symbol of liberty used in those revolutionary times, around which the citizens before that time had assembled, and, after vowing to defend the standard of liberty, had poured overboard the tea on which a tax had been unjustly laid by the minions of George III. The commander of the Unicorn offered a sum of money for their liberty pole, and at a hasty meeting of some of the citizens they had sold this liberty pole to the captain of the Unicorn, which was to be delivered the next morning. On the following night, your petitioner, then about fifteen years of age, with two other girls by the names of Parnel Man'ier and Horiair Allen, (now both dead,) destroyed said liberty pole, by boring holes in the same and filling them with powder; and your petitioner set fire to the same, and totally split the pole to pieces on the spot, and thereby prevented the benefit that would have accrued from this sale of the liberty pole to the enemy, which act your petitioner considers as equal to taking a standard of colors from an invading enemy.

Wherefore, your petitioner, being poor, in her old age, humbly requests the Legislature of this great nation to bestow upon her such gratuity or reward as they, in their wisdom, shall deem good. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

MARY HILLMAN.

[This petition was accompanied by the attestation to its truth of a number of respectable citizens.]

Mr. WARDWELL, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, reported a bill for the relief of Benjamin Gannett, widower of Deborah Gannett, a soldier of the revolution: read twice and committed.

[This is a most singular case, as the following statement of facts shows. It appears from the report that the maiden name of the said Deborah Gannett was Deborah Sampson, of Sharon, Massachusetts. That she enlisted in the army of the revolution, under the assumed name of "Robert Shurtleff," served faithfully for nearly three years, until the close of the war, when she was honorably discharged. She was at the capture of Cornwallis, was wounded at Tarrytown by a musket ball, which was never extracted, the effects of which wound followed her through life. She received a pension from the Government until the year 1827, when she died. The said Benjamin Gannett is represented to be a poor, but honest man; has expended a considerable sum of money from time to time on account of the disabilities of his wife, the effects of the hardships she endured, and the wound she received while in the service. The mar-

riage took place in the year 1784, a year after the war.]

The following paragraph will show that Mr. Gannett did not survive to reap any benefit from the favorable report of the committee, and the probably favorable action of Congress upon it.

#### DIED.

At Sharon, Ct. Mr. BENJAMIN GANNETT, aged 80 years. Mr. G. married the celebrated Deborah Sampson, known as the American Heroine, who served as a continental soldier in the American army during the three last years of the war of the Revolution.

*Correspondence of the Baltimore Chronicle.*

FREDERICK, Feb. 3, 1837.

Our gallant visitors have just been complimented with another splendid *Soiree*. It was given by Col. and Mrs. J. McP. at their elegant residence, and the joyousness of all present testified to the taste and hospitality of the host and hostess. At about half past eight, Major General Gaines and his aids were received by the appropriate air of "Hail to the Chief,"—and in the course of an hour the suite of rooms was occupied by the dancers. Where so many were distinguished by their beauty and accomplishments, it would be invidious to discriminate, but I cannot refrain from a rapid notice of those who very conspicuously figured on the occasion.

Major Gen. Macomb, in the full costume of Commander-in-chief of our gallant army.

Gen. Gaines, in the attire of a Major General.

Generals Brady and Atkinson, as Brigadier Generals.

Captains Hitchcock and McCall, in the new uniforms of Captains.

Captains Cooper, (the Judge Advocate) and Bradley, in citizen's dress; Col. S., Major S. and Lieut. Lynch, in citizen's dress.

Lieut. Mitchell, in the uniform of his grade.

Mr. W. P., as Hamlet, contemplating the skull of Yorick.

Dr. O. B., as Midshipman Easy.

Mr. S., as Jerry, in "Tom and Jerry."

Mr. B., as Count Surveilliers.

Mr. T., as a Yorkshire gentleman.

Mr. W. T., as John Jones, in "Guy Goodluck."

Mrs. A., a splendid exhibition of tasteful costume. She elicited much admiration by her personal beauty and gracefulness of manners.

Mrs. L., the proverbially beautiful matron and intelligent friend. The eyes of the whole company were directed to her graceful waltz and vivacious deportment.

Mrs. McP., our charming hostess, one of the loveliest women of the day. She added, if possible, to her circle of admirers by her affability and solicitude to render the occasion delightful to her guests.

Miss B., of the south—

"With her, the graces and the nine,  
And all that poets call divine,  
Can challenge no comparisons—  
But Venus, Hebe, and the rest,  
With more than mortal beauty blest,  
Would seem a set of Saracens."

Miss B., of Frederick—

"When Nature formed the nymph so sweet,  
The matchless maiden more complete,  
Than ever eye beheld—

Dame Nature, like a vixen bold,  
Impelled by envy, broke the mould,  
To see herself excelled."

Mrs. M., of the West—

"O! I would turn, with all my heart,  
A mussulman, like Bonaparte,  
If Ma-ho-met had one such,  
Would scale his walls of Paradise,

Or break the gates down in a trice—

But Ma-ho-met has none such."

It was thought, by those who are considered connoisseurs in the business of beauty, fascination, &c., that the married ladies, on this occasion, bore away the palm from the sisters of celibacy. For my single self, I must say, that my powers of perception were so obtused by the general blaze of perfection, physical and intellectual, that I am wholly incompetent to give an impartial opinion in the case.

—"When charms of mind—

To elegance of outward form are joined—

When youth makes such bright objects still more bright,

And fortune sets them in the strongest light,

'Tis all below of Heaven we may view.

And all but adoration is your due."

*From the Daily Buffalo Journal.*

MAGNETIC POLARITY.—Numerous and diversified theories upon the subject of the polarity of the magnetic needle have long prevailed; but it was not until 1833, that the one which is just now attracting attention was published to the world. I allude to Dr. Metcalf's theory, which supposes the magnetic pole to be simply the point of greatest cold. But, though his theory was but so recently made known, yet facts that seem to have a bearing upon it, are of a much older date.

In the philosophical transactions of the Royal Society of London, for the year 1738, there is a paper from one Capt. Middleton, so singular in its character, and apparently so intimately connected with this theory, that I have taken the liberty to transcribe it from that work, and send it for publication in the Journal.

*From the Philosophical transactions of the Royal Society of London, Anno 1738.*—"An observation of the magnetic needle being so affected by cold, that it would not traverse—by Capt. Christopher Middleton, F. R. S.

In the Philos. Trans., No. 418, Capt. M. mentioned a strange phenomenon, relating to the sea-compass, which he had frequently observed, when among the ice, in Hudson's Bay; viz. that the magnetic virtue of the needle was so far lost, or destroyed, that it would not traverse, as usual, even when the ship was in a considerable motion: and in his voyage thither last year, he observed the compass would not move at all, any longer than the quarter-master kept touching it. There was then much snow on the land, and many isles of ice around them, and the sea not very smooth: he ordered one of the compasses to be brought into the cabin, but did not find it any better, till it had stood near the fire about one-quarter of an hour, and then it began to traverse very well; he then ordered it to be placed in the binnacle, and another to be brought into the cabin, changing them alternately thus, every half hour, and found by this means he could make them traverse, as well as in any other part of the world. He was obliged to continue this practice, till near one hundred leagues from the coast, but afterwards, he had no occasion for that trouble. What should be the cause of this wonderful phenomenon he could not conjecture, being certain the compasses, as to their mechanical construction, were very perfect, and answered very well both before and after, during the whole voyage."

*From the Buffalo Journal.*

A NEW INVENTION.—We were yesterday invited by Mr. ROBERT MCCARTHY, to witness the first experiment of propelling balls, without the agency of powder or steam, from a gun of an altogether novel description, lately invented by him. The extract which follows, from a communication on the subject, gives a correct statement of the immense power of this machine. With this gun, and the shot of Mr.



Stevens—noticed a day or two since—the business of war would be much simplified and cheapened, if not entirely done away with—a matter of much moment to the philanthropist and the tax payer—and if confined to the use of this government, would render the United States invasion proof—for all that would be necessary for our defence, would be a few steamboats, or floating steam batteries, in each of our harbours or off our coast, as the same engine that propelled the vessel could at the same time be used to work the guns. We deem the invention of great importance

*For the Daily Buffalo Journal.*

Mr. Robert McCarthy, a citizen of this place, has invented a gun altogether on a new principle—for which he has secured a patent from this Government—the operation of which, in the opinion of those who have seen it, far surpasses any machine ever invented for projecting balls. I was admitted to a private inspection of it, in company with several gentlemen. We saw the operation with balls weighing nearly a pound, and judged it would throw, with perfect ease, from three to five hundred balls per minute, without the aid of powder or steam. It can be directed to any object at pleasure, and can be graduated from an ounce to a twelve or thirty-pound ball.—The whole is perfectly portable; with a portable battery, which will protect those operating it, from musketry or grape shot. It appears to me there is no calculating the value of this invention; and it is hoped the enterprising citizens of Buffalo will not let this valuable invention to the nation go to Europe before it is patronized.

#### A FRIEND TO IMPROVEMENTS.

We are sincerely pleased to observe the fact adverted to by a correspondent of the Philadelphia United States Gazette, that the Navy Department has ordered that sixty boys shall be shipped for the United States ship Independence of sixty-four guns, destined for the coast of Brazil. The introduction of such a custom entitles the Department to great credit, and promises to do more for the respectability of the naval service of our country than any thing else could have done. It will insure to the “bits of striped bunting,” native defenders, whose youthful associations and feelings will be intertwined with every thread of which they are composed, unaffected by foreign vices or foreign allegiance. Let the lads whose earliest breath has been drawn upon American soil be brought up to look to the stripes and stars as the emblem of their hopes, which is to wave over them triumphantly whilst they live and enshroud their bodies when they die, and our lives upon the east, the day when our flag shall float over a traitor or a coward is far, very far, distant.

The same correspondent refers also to the propriety of introducing more extensively apprenticeships in the commercial marine. The suggestion has been made by us before, and we would ask again and again, why have such things fallen into disuse. Is not the proper way to secure the property of our merchants, to place it in the keeping of those who have been brought up from early youth under the protecting care and judicious management of our own trusty, experienced ship masters? To show the evil effects of the abandonment of the praiseworthy practice of putting respectable boys as apprentices on board of our merchant ships, let us look, and we behold them not unfrequently manned or rather peopled by vagabond foreigners, to whose agency, in nine cases out of ten, where piracy or mutiny occurs, the mischief is to be referred. The safety of captains is too important and their situation at sea too helpless when unaided by a sufficient number of good men and true, to be exposed to the often bloodthirsty passion of those who may have sought shelter from the punishment due to their crimes, on the remote shores of our continent.

The calling of a seaman, as it affords the greatest opportunities for the exercise of the noblest feelings of our nature, so does it demand the highest moral and intellectual attributes. Simple as the mere pulling and hauling of ropes, the trimming of sails, and steering by the compass, may appear, they form but the A B C of a thorough seaman's education. They are the practical results of the exercise of mind, and their promptness and efficiency depend in an eminent degree on the courage, self-possession and intellectual resources of those who are to direct them. The security of property to vast amounts, and the safety of a great number of human lives, are every day entrusted to the commanders of vessels, who under ever changing circumstances and the pressure of sudden emergencies, are required to act, without advisers, and upon the suggestions of their own experience or scientific acquirement alone, where a single error may involve all in one general overwhelming ruin. Then, who, we would ask, stands more in need of the lights of regular naval education and the support of unyielding firmness and perfect subordination, than he who is accountable for the security of such charges under such circumstances.

A foolish, we had nearly said a wicked, impression prevails, that when a boy is fit for nothing else he should be sent to sea. We think that the sea is and ought to be a good school for the young, but for a cause very different from that usually assigned. Ungovernable boys should be sent to sea because there they will learn what it is to obey, and in their turn to be obeyed. They will there see heedless passion restrained and kept in proper subjection, whilst there, they will find no field for the gratification of vicious propensities. They will behold exertion, untiring and unflinching, demanded at the peril of their lives, and will be taught that sluggishness in doing their duty carries with it the punishment of contempt and ridicule, whilst manliness and uprightness never fail to attain their rewards in honor and distinction.—*Baltimore American.*

#### SELECTED POETRY.

*From the New York American.*

##### THE VENUS OF CANOVA.

BY LIEUT. G. W. PATTEN, U. S. ARMY.

There is no cloud upon thy brow,  
Fair idol of a shrine above;  
No gathering shadows round thee grow,  
Which veil the forms of earthly love.  
O'er all that kneel in Beauty's bower,  
Thou reignest still in queenly prime;  
Thy life a never-ending hour—  
Unscathed by care—unmoved by time.

Yet none whose lingering glances steal  
Along those lines of moulding rare,  
But sighs to see, and grieves to feel  
The loneliness of beauty there.  
Around thy lips' voluptuous swell,  
Tho' all divine the smiles which play,  
Yet where's the wildering breath to tell  
Its grief for pangs it could not stay?

Soft pity looks with tearful eye,  
But pleads in vain to melt thine own;  
The voice of blood hath pass'd thee by—  
What reek'st thou of its thunder tone?  
Tho' withering grief should league with glee,  
Revenge forgot his purpose bold,  
And Hate turned back to gaze on thee,  
Thou heed'st it not—Creation cold!

Why moulded thus, serene and fair,  
Pale image of a sculptor's dream?  
Let change awhile be written there,  
And lovelier far thy brow will seem.  
Some line effaced by sorrow's tear;  
Some feature touched by dull decay;  
And thou shalt be an emblem dear  
Of those we love—that pass away.

WASHINGTON CITY;  
THURSDAY, ..... FEBRUARY 16, 1837.

**COURTS MARTIAL.**—A criticism, or review, of the appendix to the trial of Captain Read, of the navy, will be found under our communication head. By the introductory note we are informed that this review is from the pen of the late Lieut. John T. Jenkins; but whether originally written for publication, or only for the satisfaction of his friends, we do not know.

So far as the publication of this review may be calculated to arraign before the world the conduct of Captain Read, for which he has been once tried and punished, it may be considered unnecessary and improper; having suffered for his offence, he should not be subjected to a second trial. But so far as the remarks of the writer are designed to rescue from reproach the character of an officer who had many friends in the service, or to animadvert upon the proceedings of the court, themselves a fair and legitimate subject of criticism, it is justifiable.

But we have other and high motives for admitting this article into our columns. They are, that the subject of Courts Martial may be brought to the notice of the public, and the necessity for some system in the manner of conducting them be made so manifest that public opinion will call for the introduction of a clause providing for that object, whenever (if ever) a bill for the organization of the navy shall be brought up for discussion in Congress. We have been astonished that a subject, involving serious consequences to every member of the profession, should not have long ago elicited from some of the corps a word of remark, or the suggestion of a code of laws for the government of Courts Martial. If we look at the precept for convening the court, it prescribes no form of proceeding, no rule of evidence. All is left to the discretion of the members. In some instances the judge advocate guides the court; in others, the court directs the judge advocate. Reference is made to the treatises of McArthur, Adie, Tytler, and Hough, and, as in the case of common law, we take our rules from other nations.

If any one would undertake the Herculean task of examining, comparing and analysing the proceedings of all the Courts Martial that have been held since the organization of the navy, he would find a most heterogeneous mass of incongruous materials.

Where reputation, dearer to an officer than life itself, is concerned, too much circumspection cannot be used. For a venial offence, a person may be cast upon the world with a stigma upon his character that will adhere to him as long as he lives. It is to be apprehended that the multifarious and complicated duties of the Executive do not allow that patient examination\* of the proceedings of a court, before approving or disapproving the sentence, which is essential to an impartial award of justice. Unpopular

\* We have heard it remarked, that one secretary of the navy declared it was not his province, or duty, to decide upon the validity or sufficiency of the evidence; that it was only necessary to satisfy himself that the proceedings were regular and legal.

as the creation of new offices may be, either on the score of expense, or the increase of executive patronage, it must nevertheless be admitted by every officer that the establishment of such an office at Washington as that of Judge Advocate General for the Army and Navy, would be a measure of economy and tend to the dispensation of justice, as well as inspire confidence in the proceedings of a court; it would also relieve the head of the department from the generally tedious perusal of the testimony.

A Judge Advocate should be appointed for every squadron abroad. The commander-in-chief is vested with power to convene Courts of Enquiry and Courts Martial, but for want of some "gentleman learned in the law," as the phrase is, an officer is usually selected as Judge Advocate, although he can be little else than a recorder of the proceedings.

We find the subject grows upon our hands, but are warned by our limited space that we cannot expatiate farther at present. If some of our correspondents, who have more leisure and ability to treat of it, should not take it up, we may hereafter resume it.

A domestic treatise upon Courts Martial, which shall be a text book, is very much needed in both services. None such has ever been prepared for the navy. The present commander-in-chief of the army, many years ago, published a work of the kind, but it is now out of print.

#### ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

- Feb. 13—Capt. P. Morrison, 4th Infy. Gadsby's.  
Capt. J. W. Ripley, Ordn. Fuller's.  
Lt. A. S. Macomb, 2d Drags. Gen. Macomb's.  
14—Lt. J. E. Johnston, 4th Arty. Mrs. Ulrick's.  
Capt. W. G. Williams, T. E. Col. Abert's.  
Major J. S. McIntosh, 7th Infy. Gadsby's.  
Capt. E. A. Hitchcock, 1st Infy. do  
Major W. G. McNeill, T. E. Fuller's.  
Lieut. R. Anderson, 3d Arty. do  
15—Lieut. J. Pickell, 4th Arty. Gadsby's.  
Lieut. M. S. Miller, 3d Arty. do

#### LETTERS ADVERTISED.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15, 1837.

ARMY.—Lt. W. H. Betts, Major H. Bache, 2. Capt G. S. Drane, Lt. J. Duncan, Lt. J. L. Mason, Lt. M. S. Miller, Lt. G. Morris, Lt. J. G. Reed, Major Smith, Lieut. Searight.

Late of the Army.—Gen. D. L. Clinch, Lt. R. S. Smith.

NAVY.—Lieut. Dornin, Lt. J. Glynn, 4. J. R. Goldsborough, 6. Mid. A. D. Harrell, J. T. McLaughlin, Wm. Ramsay, Eugene E. Rogers, Com. Charles Ridgely, Peyton Southall.

MARINE CORPS.—Lt. H. B. Tyler.

#### COMMUNICATION.

MR. EDITOR:—You are respectfully requested to insert the enclosed criticism upon the proceedings of a Naval Court Martial, prepared by the late Lieut. J. T. Jenkins, and oblige the many who cherish an affectionate recollection of the writer, and particularly a friend to  
JUSTICE.

#### REVIEW

OF THE APPENDIX TO CAPTAIN READ'S TRIAL.

The Court Martial convened for the sole purpose of trying Captain Read, after having discharged that duty, concluded their labors by adding a *postscript* to



the record of that trial, condemning two other officers *without trial*. Lieutenants Jenkins and Hooe were witnesses against Captain Read, and the Court take the liberty to pronounce against them the following sentence of condemnation:

"The Court deem it due to the service to express its opinion that the testimony of Lieutenants Hooe and Jenkins was given under the influence of *excitement and irritation, unfavorable to its impartiality*.—And that, according to their own statement of what passed between themselves and their commander, Captain Read, the conduct of Lieutenants Hooe and Jenkins on board the frigate Constellation, was *insubordinate and reprehensible*."

It is very evident that the members of that Court were conscious that the light punishment awarded to Captain Read would be condemned by public opinion. They therefore sought for an apology for thus screening their brother Captain. That apology was, that the testimony of these Lieutenants was not *impartial*; and at least one member of the Court had the boldness to avow it, by proposing to add to the foregoing sentence against Lieutenants Hooe and Jenkins, that "the Court, in adjudging the accused (Read) to the mild punishment of one year's suspension only, are mainly influenced by the passionate testimony given by Lieutenants Hooe and Jenkins."

What must be the officer's standard of justice, who proposed the apology for the *mild sentence*, or the minority of the Court who voted with him?

The charges and specifications upon which Captain Read was condemned, were *fully* proved by other witnesses than Lieutenants Hooe and Jenkins—witnesses whose testimony passed the review of the Court without the slightest censure. Thus, then, while the Court condemned upon proof, that is *impartial and satisfactory to them*, one of its members gravely proposes to *mitigate* the punishment, because two other witnesses under "the influence of excitement and irritation," testify to the *same* facts and prove the *same* charges!

What must be the character of that judge's mind who can say, several unbiassed witnesses have proved the *offence*, and I therefore find the accused guilty; but in consequence of two other witnesses, also proving the same offence, but giving testimony under "excitement and irritation," I will not award the punishment which the offence *merits*, but will award a milder one. Your offence was proved by several impartial and credible witnesses, and merits a sentence of imprisonment, and to that punishment I would consign you—but two other witnesses, under "excitement and irritation," having also proved the offence, I sentence you to the milder punishment of a pecuniary fine!

Your offence, Captain Read, is established by the united testimony of several credible and dispassionate witnesses, and for that offence you deserve to be dismissed the service, and such would be our sentence, had not two other witnesses, "under excitement and irritation," also proved the offence. In consequence of their "passionate testimony," we decide to let you off with "the mild punishment of a year's suspension only!"

Such nonsense, such mockery of justice, I venture to say, was never before exhibited in any court or tribunal organized for the trial of offences.

The other portion of the sentence against Lieutenants Hooe and Jenkins is yet more reprehensible. These lieutenants, if they have been guilty of "insubordination" while under Captain Read's command, are liable to be arraigned before a court martial and tried for it. What right or power then has this court, convened for the trial of Captain Read alone, to try and condemn these lieutenants, unheard in their defence? Were charges now to be preferred by Captain Read, or the Navy Department, against them for "insubordination," would this *ex parte* and secret trial and condemnation by eight

Post Captains be "*favorable to the impartiality*" of another court convened for their trial? When the Senate of the United States, by a resolution of their body, decided that President Jackson had violated the constitution, their proceedings were, by himself and the public voice, pronounced illegal; and among other reasons, because he was not heard in defence, and might thereafter, on impeachment, be arraigned for the same charge.

These lieutenants were not heard in defence, and may be hereafter arraigned upon the same charge.

How so flagrant a violation of duty in the court, could have escaped the observation of the President is matter of surprise. In all probability his attention was confined to the *trial of Captain Read*, when the Court's ought to have been.

In the foregoing view of this matter, I have *assumed* that the lieutenants *may* have "testified under excitement and irritation unfavorable to their impartiality," and that they *may* have been guilty of "insubordination;" still, as the offence was *fully proved* by other witnesses, and as they were not on trial for "insubordination," and may yet be arraigned for that charge, the condemnation by the court was wholly and entirely wrong. But so far, at least, as Lieutenant Jenkins is concerned, I look in vain for the evidence in any manner even to excuse, much less to justify, the censure of the court upon him.

The following is the testimony of Lieutenant Jenkins:

"Lieutenant John T. Jenkins, of the United States Navy, being sworn by the President for the prosecution, testified as follows, on the second charge and specifications: In regard to the first specification of the second charge, I was stationed at the main mast, and my attention was directed to a conversation between Captain Read and Midshipman Wilson. I saw Midshipman Wilson between two guns, and one or two quartermasters laid hands on him. I saw Midshipman Wilson afterwards going up the fore-rigging, followed by those men; the order was soon after given to pipe down, and I went below. Witness knows nothing of the second specification and cannot state the language that passed between Captain Read and Midshipman Wilson, as it was not within his hearing.

#### "ON THE THIRD SPECIFICATION.

"I was called to take charge of the deck at 8 o'clock. I received the word; the orders were to keep Midshipman Wilson at the mast head, and to hail him every fifteen minutes, and learn if land was in sight. I sent for Midshipman Wilson, and told him I should report to Captain Read. I reported to Captain Read, and this conversation took place: "I ordered you to go to the mast head and look out for land." Mr. Wilson said, "Yes, Sir." Captain Read then said, "You refused to go?" Mr. Wilson said, "Yes, Sir." Captain Read then directed me to send for the Marine officer, Lieutenant Hall, and when he came on deck he ordered him to place Mr. Wilson between two guns under the sentry's charge, in the after part of the ship, on the main deck; and I communicated this order to the officer who relieved me.

"Question by the Judge Advocate.—What was the manner of Captain Read in addressing Mr. Wilson?

"Answer.—It was under the influence of passion.

"Question by the Court.—How long did you serve on board the Constellation?

"Answer.—I was on board about eleven months, all the time under the command of Captain Read.

"Question.—What was Captain Read's general deportment to the officers under his command?

"Answer.—Captain Read, in the early period that I was attached to the vessel, was, as I thought, correct in his deportment; but in the latter part, overbearing, unjust, and unofficer-like, so far as my judgment extended.

"No question was asked by the accused.

"THURSDAY, June 25th, 1835.

"The Court met according to adjournment; present as yesterday. The last day's proceedings were read.

"Lieutenant Jenkins was again called.

"Question by the Court.—You said yesterday that your opinion of Captain Read's general conduct was, that it was unjust, overbearing, and unofficer-like, so far as your *observation* extended. Upon what facts have you formed this opinion? State them particularly.

"Answer.—The case immediately before the Court is one instance, wherein I think Captain Read's conduct was as I stated yesterday. I will cite the instance of Captain Read's deportment to me on one particular occasion: Captain Read thought proper, when I was officer of the deck of the *Constellation*, to *shake his finger at me*, in what I conceived to be a very *insulting manner*.

"These are the only two particular instances within my own observation, but Captain Read's general deportment in *receiving the reports of the officers* was overbearing. I will name another instance: When in the Chesapeake Bay we lost an anchor, and in attempting to weigh it with a buoy rope, his language to Lieutenant Rudd was, I think, unofficer-like. He told Mr. Rudd that it was owing to his neglect and want of judgment that the loss of the anchor might be attributed; but in such a *manner* as to convey the idea I before mentioned of *insult and indignity*. It was more the *manner*, I might add, in this last instance than the language.

"Question.—What lead to Captain Read's shaking his finger at you?

"Answer.—I was officer of the deck, attending to the discharge of a lighter of water at Gibraltar, when in quarantine; Captain Read expressed his wish that the men should work smarter, and directed me to hasten them. I did so, but it did not please him. He ascended a horse block, and observed, 'A shore boat is approaching the ship.' The boat had been reported to me, and I had directed one of the midshipmen to see what the boat required. Captain Read observed to me that 'I ought to look out for the boat.' I told him I had directed an officer to look out for her, and I was ready to meet its demands. I also knew this boat to be one which had been commissioned by the officers to purchase provisions for their mess. He said it was my duty to attend to that boat myself, and that I should go to the gangway for that purpose. I replied that I had directed one of the gentlemen to attend to it, and walked towards the gangway. He called me and observed that *my manner did not please him*, and that unless I was *more attentive to my duty* he would take the deck from me. I replied that 'he could use his own pleasure.' He then observed that 'when he spoke to me in that way it was for the purpose of instructing me in my profession.' I told him I was ever grateful for such instructions; that I was a young lieutenant, and consequently but of limited experience. He then reiterated what he had previously said, and *shaking his finger*, said that unless I was more particular he would take the deck from me. I observed to Captain Read that his *gesture was exceptionable*. He asked me what I said. I repeated that his gesture was exceptionable, and that I could not permit any one to use it to me with impunity. He then suspended me. I sent for my relief, Lieutenant Davis, and surrendered the deck to him. I might also mention Captain Read's *apology* for this conversation.

"I shall also state that Captain Read's manner when he came on deck evidenced *excitement, passion*—for what cause I know not. I had relieved Mr. Newell that morning, and he told me the *state the Captain was in, and to be on my guard*.

"Question by the Court.—How long had you done duty as a lieutenant on board that ship, at the time of her arrival in the Chesapeake Bay?

"Answer.—We arrived in the Bay in November,

1834, and I had performed duty as a lieutenant from the time I had joined her, which was about ten months previous."

*First*.—There is nothing in the *language* as reported by the court which indicates that his testimony "was given under the influence of excitement and irritation unfavorable to its impartiality." *Second*.—The facts to which he testified were not only corroborated by every other witness but were not controverted by Captain Read. *Third*.—His opinion that Captain Read's general deportment to the officers under his command was "overbearing, unjust, and unofficer-like," was not *volunteered*, but given in answer to a direct question by the court, requiring his opinion. *Fourth*.—That opinion or judgment of Captain Read's general deportment does not purport to be formed *exclusively* upon the witness's own *observation* of improper deportment, but embraces also all that had taken place and become subject of general conversation on board the ship. In the language of the witness, his general deportment "was overbearing, unjust, and unofficer-like, so far as my judgment extended." *Fifth*.—He was afterwards required by the court to name the instances of improper conduct in Captain Read, which came under his *own observation*. These instances, therefore, were not *volunteered*, but given on compulsion.

The judgment formed of another's bad character or deportment, is not the result of particular examples treasured in the mind, and ready to be detailed at the moment. It is rather the impression, which oft repeated and habitual bad deportment produces, when, from the variety and frequency of it, the particulars have passed away. On this occasion, however, Lieutenant Jenkins was able to call to mind and enumerate instances sufficient to justify the judgment he expressed.

If, as Lieutenant Jenkins stated, Captain Read's "general deportment on receiving reports of the officers was overbearing," this, of itself, must have furnished numerous instances to justify the observation that his conduct was "unofficer-like." The instance for which Captain Read was then on trial would alone fully justify the opinion that he was "overbearing, unjust, and unofficer-like."

Captain Read, in a "manner of insult and indignity," told Lieutenant Rudd he lost the anchor by *neglect* and want of judgment. The charge of *neglect* and want of judgment to a lieutenant, with "a manner of insult and indignity," was "unjust, overbearing, and unofficer-like." That the officer of the deck, when relieved by Lieutenant Jenkins, should tell him the state of excitement and passion Captain Read was in, and cautioned him "to be on his guard," exhibits Capt. Read as "unjust, overbearing, and unofficer-like."

That Captain Read, in giving his order to Lieutenant Jenkins to receive the boat as stated, should get in a *passion* because Lieutenant Jenkins said "he had told an officer to look out for her, and he was ready to receive her demands," was certainly "unofficer-like."

That he should in his passion scold like an old woman, and conclude by "*shaking his finger*" in a very *insulting manner*, at a lieutenant who was officer of the deck, was decidedly "unofficer-like."

That Captain Read, after his passion had subsided, should make Lieutenant Jenkins an *apology*, and restore him to duty, was not unjust or unofficer-like, but was the most perfect confession that his *previous conduct* had been "overbearing, unjust, and unofficer-like."

With these instances, can a candid mind dissent from the "judgment" of Lieutenant Jenkins in pronouncing Captain Read's general deportment to be "overbearing, unjust, and unofficer-like."

It may be added that from the other officers of the ship, numbering thirty—all summoned and present at the trial—Captain Read for himself, or the court for him, did not deem it prudent to attempt to establish a more favorable character.



Let us next examine the question of "insubordination;" where do we find the evidence to justify the opinion of the Court, "that according to Lieutenant Jenkins's own statement of what passed between himself and his commander, Captain Read, the conduct of Lieutenant Jenkins on board the frigate Constellation was *"insubordinate and reprehensible."*

There is not the slightest evidence of "insubordination," unless when Captain Read in *passion*, and "in a very *insulting* manner shook his finger at him," Lieutenant Jenkins saying "*his gesture was exceptionable, and he could not permit any one to use it to him with impunity,*" may be considered insubordination. Such language from the commanding officer, addressed to the officer of the deck in *passion* and in an *insulting manner* is most certainly "exceptionable." Captain Read, by making Lieutenant Jenkins an *apology* for it afterwards, thereby admitted that it was "exceptionable."

I will not do the members of the court the injustice to believe they had privately received from Captain Read a different version of the affair, but, on the contrary, that they, as they allege, formed their judgment of insubordination upon Lieutenant Jenkins's "*own statement.*" Insubordination! yet the superior makes an *apology* to the subordinate!!

Is not that a strange insubordination on the part of Lieutenant Jenkins, which *requires* and *receives* an *apology* from Captain Read, his commanding officer?

I have, in this review of the proceedings of the court, freely, and I trust candidly, examined the facts and circumstances. My object has not been to censure or condemn farther than it appeared to me necessary for the defence of an officer, whose professional reputation is dearer to him than life. "As due to the service" I solicit a candid perusal, particularly by the officers of the Navy.

JUSTICE.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS, IN RELATION TO THE ARMY, NAVY, &c.

##### IN SENATE.

MONDAY, January 23, 1837.

The CHAIR communicated a report from the War Department, made in compliance with the resolutions of the 14th and 18th instant, transmitting copies of the correspondence relative to the campaign under General Call in Florida.

Mr. LINN presented a memorial from the Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin, praying for an appropriation of \$75,000 for the construction of a road from Fort Harrison to Fort Winnebago, and from Green Bay to Lake Michigan;

Also, a memorial from the same source, praying for an appropriation, to be expended under the direction of the Legislative Assembly, for the construction of a road from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi river;

Also, a memorial from the same source, praying for the opening of a road from Fort Winnebago to intersect the road from Green Bay to Chicago;

Also, a memorial from the same source, praying for three thousand stand of arms for the use of said Territory in case of Indian wars;

Also, a memorial from the same source, praying for appropriations for harbors, light-houses, surveys, &c.; Which memorials were appropriately referred.

On motion of Mr. BENTON, the fortification bill, the army bill, and the bill to increase the army of the United States, were severally postponed to, and made the order of the day for, Thursday week.

THURSDAY, Jan. 26.

The CHAIR presented a communication from the Adjutant General, transmitting a certain number of copies of the Army Register; which, on motion of Mr. GRUNDY, was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

The bill from the House to change the title of certain officers of the Navy, was read twice, and referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

TUESDAY, Jan. 31.

The CHAIR communicated a report from the State Department, giving the number of registered American seamen in each quarter of the year 1836; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

The CHAIR announced a communication from the War Department, giving a list of the appropriations and expenditures for the year 1836; and

On motion of Mr. WRIGHT, it was referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LINN presented a memorial from the Legislative Assembly of the Wisconsin Territory, praying for the deposit of arms, ammunition, &c., for defence of said Territory, in case of Indian invasion: referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. WRIGHT presented the memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New York, praying that some of the small vessels of the navy may be employed as relief ships, during the winter, off the coast of New York: referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, to which was referred the bill to encourage the employment of boys in the naval service, reported the same without amendment.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 1.

Mr. KENT presented the petition of the Mayor and Council of the city of Baltimore, praying that a depot may be established at that city for the use of the United States revenue cutters: referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. DAVIS, from the select committee appointed on the subject, reported a bill providing for the appointment of three scientific persons to examine and test the utility of the inventions for preventing the bursting of steam boilers; which was read and ordered to a second reading.

THURSDAY, Feb. 2.

Mr. CLAYTON presented joint resolutions of the Legislature of Delaware, instructing their Senators and requesting their representatives in Congress, to use their exertions to obtain the passage of appropriations for additional improvements in the Delaware river, and to endeavour to obtain a repeal of the hospital money, exacted from seamen: referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. TOMLINSON, from the Committee on Pensions, to which had been referred the petition of Mrs. Ann S. Heileman, widow of the late Major Heileman, reported a bill for her relief; which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

By Mr. CALHOUN:

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to report to the Senate as early as practicable, the aggregate expense of collecting the duties on the lakes during the year 1836, including the expense of revenue cutters; the net amount of duties collected and the expenditures of the government on the lakes during the same period, in constructing harbors, breakwaters, and light-houses, with the current expenses attending the light-houses on the lakes during the year.

On motion of Mr. WHITE, the bill for the relief of John E. Wool was taken up and considered as in Committee of the Whole, and ordered to a third reading.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 8.

The CHAIR announced a communication from the War Department, transmitting a report from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, relative to the compensation of Indian agents; and

Also a communication from the same, transmitting a report from the Second Auditor, relative to the trade with Indian tribes; and on motion of Mr. WHITE, they were severally referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and the first was ordered to be printed.

A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. ANDREW JACKSON, junior, his secretary, transmitting a communication from the War Department relative to the treaty recently submitted to the Senate made with the Sac and Fox Indians.

FRIDAY, Feb. 10.

Mr. RIVES presented the petition of Roger Jones, Adjutant General of the army of the United States, praying for increase of compensation in proportion to his brevet rank: referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion of Mr. WRIGHT,

The bill making appropriations for the support of the army for the year 1837, was taken up and considered as

in Committee of the Whole, and ordered to a third reading.

MONDAY, Feb. 13.

Mr. WALKER moved that the Senate take up the resolution which was submitted by him in the early part of the session, relative to acknowledging the independence of Texas; and he asked for the yeas and nays, which were ordered.

Mr. BENTON opposed the motion on the ground that the bill to increase the army was entitled to a preference, and would come up, if not kept off by a debate in relation to Texas; and, after a brief discussion,

Mr. WALKER's motion was rejected; yeas 12, nays 31. The bill to increase the army of the United States was then taken up, and considered as in Committee of the Whole, together with the amendments reported by the Committee on Military Affairs; and the amendments being agreed to, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The bill making appropriations for the support of the army for the year 1837, and for other purposes, was read the third time and passed.

The bill to establish a foundry and armory in the west and southwest, and depots for arms in certain states and territories; and, after some remarks from Messrs. BENTON, SEVIER, and LINN, in support of the bill, and from Mr. CALHOUN against it, it was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading; yeas 26, nays 11.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, Feb. 13, 1837.

Mr. YELL gave notice that, when it should be in order, he would introduce a bill to amend an act passed the last session of Congress, locating or establishing a new garrison on the western frontiers of Arkansas, on the Arkansas river.

On motion of Mr. LYON,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Commerce inquire into the expediency of making provision, by law, for the erection of a light-house on Sand Island, opposite Mobile Point, in Alabama.

On motion of Mr. RUSSELL,

*Resolved*, That the acting Secretary of War be requested to communicate to this House the report made to the department, of the plan for improving the harbor at White Hall, in the State of New York, with the map accompanying the same.

On motion of Mr. MCKAY,

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of War be directed to furnish the House with a detailed statement of the several officers of the army, who, at any time during the year 1836, have been employed on any service or business whatever, which separated them from their respective regiments and corps, in such manner as will show the kind of employment; the places where employed; the commencement and termination of such service; at whose instance employed; if employed in the service of corporate companies or individuals, the same to be specified; and, also, that he state the time which each of said officers may have performed military duty with his regiment or corps during the last five years.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of War furnish the House with a list of the captains and lieutenants, who, during the year 1836, have sent in their resignations, in such manner as will show where and how each were employed at the time; and that he specify the dates of acceptance; and also, that he state what officers, if any, have tendered their resignations on receiving orders to join the regiments or stations, or immediately after having first complied with the orders; and, also, the time which each captain and subalter, so resigned, may have served with his company during the last five years.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of War be directed to furnish this House with a detailed statement, showing, according to the monthly returns, the number of companies of the different corps of the army that have been operating during the past year against the Creeks and Seminoles, together with the number and grade of commissioned officers that have been performing military duty with them.

On motion of Mr. GHOLSON, of Mississippi,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a depot of arms in Vicksburg, in the State of Mississippi; and, also, an arsenal at or near Columbia, Mississippi,

near the Alabama State line, in pursuance of a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, presented at the last session of Congress.

TUESDAY, Feb. 14, 1837.

Mr. JARVIS, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill for the payment of certain pensions heretofore paid out of the Privateer Pension Fund: read twice and committed.

Mr. REYNOLDS of Illinois, from the Committee on Roads and Canals, reported the following resolution; which lies over one day for consideration.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of War be instructed to cause surveys and examinations to be made of Alleghany river, from Pittsburg to Olean; of the Illinois river, from its mouth to the termination of the canal; and of the Kaskaskia river, from its mouth to Vandalia, the seat of Government of the State of Illinois, and report the same to Congress.

#### ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. CAMBRELENG, from the Committee on Ways and Means, moved that the "bill making appropriations for the support of the army for the year 1837," returned from the Senate with amendments, be committed to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, which was agreed to.

#### INDIAN HOSTILITIES.

Mr. CAMBRELENG, from the same committee, reported a bill making an appropriation for the suppression of Indian hostilities for the year 1837: read twice, and committed to a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

#### INDIAN DEPARTMENT.

Mr. GARLAND of Virginia, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill supplementary to an act entitled An act for the re-organization of the Department of Indian Affairs, and An act to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes, and preserve peace on the frontier, (both approved the 30th of June, 1834,) and for other purposes: read twice, and committed to a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. THOMSON of Ohio, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of Anne S. Heileman: read twice and committed.

#### VERMONT MILITIA.

Mr. COLES, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported, with an amendment, Senate bill for the payment of the Vermont militia, for services at the battle of Plattsburgh; which was committed.

Mr. WARD, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported, without amendment, the bill from the Senate for the relief of the heirs of General William Eaton; which was committed.

A message from the President of the United States, was received, transmitting a copy of the instructions prepared under his direction, by the War Department, for the commissioners appointed by him, in pursuance of the request contained in the resolution adopted by the House of Representatives on the 1st of July last, to investigate the causes of the hostilities then existing with the Creek Indians; and, also, copies of the reports, on that subject, received from the commissioners.

The message having been read, was, on motion of Mr. WARD, ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

Mr. E. WHITTLESEY, from the Committee of Claims, made an unfavorable report on the memorial of the inhabitants of St. Augustine, Florida, praying compensation for expenses, &c. on fortifications: which report was ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. JARVIS, the Committee of Naval Affairs were discharged from the memorial of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, for vessels to be stationed on the Atlantic coast; also the petition of John R. Jenkins, and the same was referred to the Secretary of the Navy.

#### APPROPRIATION BILLS.

On motion of Mr. CAMBRELENG, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, Mr. PATTON in the Chair, for the purpose of proceeding to the consideration of the annual appropriation bills—that for the naval service being pending.

#### ARMY BILL.

Mr. CAMBRELENG hoped the committee would, before proceeding to the navy bill, take up the bill making ap-



propositions for the support of the army, and concur in the amendments of the Senate to that bill, the principal amendment being for the pay of the Tennessee volunteers. He moved that this bill be taken up; which was accordingly done.

After some remarks by Messrs. CARTER and WHITTLESEY,

Mr. GRAVES moved an amendment to the bill appropriating \$75,000 for the payment of the expenses of the Kentucky volunteers, who were called out under the orders of General Gaines, and received into the service of the United States, but were immediately discharged.

Mr. GRAVES advocated his amendment at some length, and pointed out the obvious injustice there would be in drawing any line of distinction between men having equal claims upon the gratitude or consideration of the country; and pointed out the identity between the Tennessee and Kentucky volunteers.

After some remarks by Messrs. JOHNSON of Tennessee, E. WHITTLESEY, CHAMBERS of Kentucky, and CARTER,

Mr. CARTER moved an amendment to the amendment providing that those volunteers of Tennessee who were called out and mustered at Athens, should be indemnified by paying them three months' pay.

After some remarks from Messrs. FRENCH, CAMBRELENG, WHITTLESEY, and GRAVES,

Mr. CLAIBORNE of Mis. moved the following amendment of Mr. GRAVES: "And that a like sum of seventy-five thousand dollars be appropriated for the payment of the Mississippi volunteers."

Mr. WHITTLESEY of Ohio, explained, in reply to Mr. CLAIBORNE, that the committee had applied to the War Department, and had received for answer that no returns or muster rolls had been transmitted to the Department by the proper officers in Mississippi; and until those returns were made, the committee could not act in the case of the Mississippi volunteers. They had no data to act upon. The fault was not with the committee, but with the State authorities.

After some further remarks by Messrs. ALFORD, BELL, CAMBRELENG, WHITTLESEY, CHILTON ALLEN, and LAWLER.

Mr. GRAVES modified his amendment, so as to make an appropriation for all volunteers who had turned out and been accepted by the Governors of the different States, under the call for volunteers by Gen. Gaines.

After some further remarks by Messrs. GRAVES, GLASCOCK, DAWSON, HAYNES, DUNLAP, GRENNELL, HOLSEY and MERCER,

Mr. CARTER withdrew his amendment.

Mr. LAWLER moved to amend the amendment of Mr. GRAVES, by including the volunteers of Alabama, mustered at Mount Vernon, in that State.

Mr. GRAVES then modified his amendment by inserting the sum of \$100,000, which he thought would cover all the amount necessary.

Before taking the question, on motion of Mr. CAMBRELENG, the bill was laid aside, and the committee resumed the consideration of the

#### NAVAL SERVICE BILL.

Being the "bill making appropriations for the naval service for the year 1837."

The question pending, was the motion of Mr. JARVIS to reduce the item for the pay of the officers and seamen of the navy \$150,000.

Mr. J. modified his amendment, by reducing the amount \$51,118, as that was the difference between the cost of sending and not sending a frigate.

Mr. J. also made a further modification of his amendment, by adding a proviso to the clause, that nothing contained in this, or any other appropriation should be considered as authorizing or approving any increase in the Surveying or Exploring Expedition, authorized by the act of June, 1836.

Mr. JARVIS addressed the House at some length, going into a variety of statements, to show the entire impracticability of sending out a frigate on this expedition. All the documents referred to, went to show that vessels not exceeding two hundred tons, were best calculated to carry through this important expedition.

Mr. CAMBRELENG arose merely to entreat gentlemen to abstain, at this period of the session, (when we had but a few days to transact the great mass of public business,) from going into a long debate on the propriety of sending a frigate on this exploring expedition. After a good deal of exploring on his part, he had at last dis-

covered that it was not intended to send the frigate for exploring purposes, but to aid in making surveys of islands long since discovered, and, at the same time, to extend protection to our extensive commerce in those seas. It was not designed, as he now understood the matter, to send the frigate to within twenty degrees of the boundary of former discoveries. He was happy to learn that there was no man, either in or out of the departments, mad enough to think of sending a frigate to explore unknown seas, continents, and islands, near the south pole, beyond the latitude of seventy-four degrees, especially as the region of eternal snow commences at fifty-four degrees. It was also possible, although he would not say that he apprehended war with Mexico, that it might become necessary, in three weeks, to send that frigate to the Gulf of Mexico. It was a matter entirely of Executive discretion. In any event, the frigate would be required for the public service, and he hoped the little time remaining of the session would not be wasted in a useless and interminable debate on the question whether a frigate ought, or ought not, to be sent to explore in the hitherto undiscovered regions of the south pole.

On motion of Mr. PEARCE, of R. I. the committee rose and reported.

#### DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

*From the Washington Globe, Feb. 16.*

The opinion of the President on that part of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry, now sitting at Frederick, which relates to the campaign against the Creek Indians, is given below. The proceedings of the court, in respect to the failure of the campaigns under Generals Gaines and Scott, against the Seminoles, so far as regards the case of Major General Scott, have also been submitted to the President; but we understand that in consequence of the necessary connection between the cases of the two commanders, the President has suspended his examination of the proceedings in respect to Major General Scott, until he shall have received the proceedings in the case of Major General Gaines, when the whole subject will be taken up and disposed of.

#### OFFICIAL.

#### OPINION OF THE PRESIDENT

*On the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry ordered to investigate the causes of the delay in the campaign against the Creek Indians.*

The President has carefully examined the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry recently held at the city of Frederick, by virtue of orders, No. 65 and 68, so far as the same relate to the causes of the delay in opening and prosecuting the campaign in Georgia and Alabama, against the hostile Creek Indians, in the year 1836; and has maturely considered the opinion of the court on the part of the subject referred to it.

The order constituting the court directs it, among other things, "to inquire and examine into the causes of the delay in opening and prosecuting the campaign in Georgia and Alabama, against the hostile Creek Indians, in the year 1836, and into every subject connected with the military operations in the campaign aforesaid; and after fully investigating the same, to report the facts, together with its opinion on the whole subject, for the information of the President."

It appears, from the proceedings, that after the testimony of nine witnesses had been received by the court, and after more than one hundred documents bearing on the subject had also been produced in evidence, and after Major General Scott had addressed the court on the subject, the court proceeded to pronounce its opinion, as follows:

"Upon a careful examination of the abundant testimony taken in the foregoing case, the court is of opinion, that no delay, which it was practicable to have avoided, was made by Major Gen. Scott in opening the campaign against the Creek Indians. On the contrary, it appears that he took the earliest measures

to provide arms, munitions, and provisions, for his forces, who were found almost wholly destitute; and as soon as arms could be put into the hands of the volunteers, they were, in succession, detached and placed in position, to prevent the enemy from retiring upon Florida, and whence they could move against the main body of the enemy, as soon as equipped for offensive operations.

From the testimony of the governor of Georgia, of Major General Sandford, commander of the Georgia volunteers, and many witnesses of high rank and standing, who were acquainted with the topography of the country, and the position and strength of the enemy, the court is of opinion that the plan of campaign adopted by Major General Scott, was well calculated to lead to successful results, and that it was prosecuted by him, as far as practicable, with zeal and ability, until recalled from the command, upon representations made by Major General Jesup, his second in command from Fort Mitchell, in a letter bearing date the 20th of June, 1836, addressed to F. P. Blair, Esq., at Washington, marked "*private*," containing a request that it might be shown to the President, which letter was exposed and brought to light by the dignified and magnanimous act of the President, in causing it to be placed on file in the Department of War, as an official document, and which forms part of these proceedings. (See document No. 214.) Conduct so extraordinary and inexplicable on the part of Major General Jesup, in reference to the character of said letter, should, in the opinion of the court, be investigated."

The foregoing opinion is not accompanied by any report of the *facts* in the case, as required by the order constituting the court; on the contrary, the facts are left to be gathered from the mass of oral and documentary evidence contained in the proceedings; and thus a most important part of the duty assigned to the court remains unexecuted. Had the court stated the facts of the case, as established to its satisfaction by the evidence before it, the President, on comparing such statement of facts found by the court with its opinion, would have distinctly understood the views entertained by the court with respect to the degree of promptitude and energy which ought to be displayed in a campaign against Indians—a point manifestly indispensable to a correct appreciation of the opinion, and one which the President's examination of the evidence has not supplied, inasmuch as he has no means of knowing whether the conclusions drawn by him from the evidence agree with those of the court.

The opinion of the court is also argumentative, and wanting in requisite precision; inasmuch as it states that "no delay, *which it was practicable to have avoided, was made by Major General Scott*, in opening the campaign against the Creek Indians, &c., &c.;" thus leaving it to be inferred, but not distinctly finding, that there was some delay, and that it was made by some person other than Major General Scott; without specifying in what such delay consisted, when it occurred, how long it continued, nor by whom it was occasioned. Had the court found a state of facts as required by the order constituting it, the uncertainty now existing in this part of the opinion would have been obviated, and the justice of the opinion itself readily determined.

That part of the opinion of the court which animadverts on the letter addressed by Major General Jesup to F. P. Blair, Esq., bearing date the 20th June, 1836, and which presents the same as a subject demanding investigation, appears to the President to be wholly unauthorized by the order constituting the court, and by which its jurisdiction was confined to an inquiry into the causes of the delay in opening and prosecuting the campaign against the hostile Creeks, and into such subjects as were connected with the military operations in that campaign. The causes of the recall of Major General Scott from the command, and the propriety or impropriety of the conduct of Gen.

Jesup in writing the letter referred to, were not submitted to the court as subjects of inquiry. The court itself appears to have been of this opinion, inasmuch as no notice was given to General Jesup of the pendency of the proceedings, nor had he any opportunity to cross-examine and interrogate the witnesses; nor to be heard in respect to his conduct in the matter remarked on by the court.

For the several reasons above assigned, the President disapproves the opinion of the court, and remits to it the proceedings in question, to the end that the court may resume the consideration of the evidence; and from the same, and from such further evidence as shall be taken, (in case the court shall deem it necessary to take further evidence,) may ascertain and report, with distinctness and precision—especially as to time, place, distances, and other circumstances—all the facts touching the opening and prosecuting of the campaign in Georgia and Alabama, against the hostile Creek Indians, in the year 1836, and the military operations in the said campaign; and touching the delay, if any there was, in the opening or prosecuting of said campaign, and the causes of such delay; and to the end, also, that the court, whilst confining its opinion to the subject-matters submitted to it, may fully and distinctly express its opinion on those matters for the information of the President.

The Secretary of War *ad interim* will cause the proceedings of the court on the subject of the campaign against the Creek Indians, with the documentary evidence referred to therein, and a copy of the foregoing opinion, to be transmitted to Major General Alexander Macomb, president of the court, for the proper action thereon.

ANDREW JACKSON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 1837.

#### SEMINOLE WAR.

The following letters from Gen. JESUP have been handed us for publication:

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH, }  
Camp Izard, Jan. 17, 1837. }

SIR: The army under my command has swept the swamps of the Outhlacoochie on the north side, from Fort Armstrong, at Dade's battle ground, to this place, and a detachment under Lt. Col. Foster moved down the south side to Fort Clinch. The result of our operations has been the capture of fifty-two negroes and three Indians, and the positive knowledge that there are no Indians on this river, except small parties who are flying through and hiding in the swamps, with no other means of subsistence than roots, palmetto cabbage, and occasionally indifferent beef.

I moved down to Fort Clinch with the mounted men on the 15th, where I met Lt. Col. Foster, and learning from a prisoner that the women and children with the aged and sick of the Tallahassee and Ogechee Indians, occupy a position in a swamp about thirty miles south of Fort Clinch, I detached Lt. Col. Foster yesterday, with about four hundred regular troops and Georgia volunteers, and a hundred Indian warriors, to attack, and, if possible, capture them.

I have to-day ordered Major McClintock to Fort Drane with about eighty regular troops, to take the command of that post, and endeavor to drive off the small bands of Indians who infest that neighborhood.

Powell is flying, it appears, with his family and a band of not more than three warriors. The prisoners now say that he has gone to Ocklawaha.

I shall return immediately to Fort Armstrong, where I shall send expeditions into the country, between that post and Volusia; and I shall conduct an expedition myself against Micanopy, the principal chief of the Seminoles, on the head of the Ocklawaha.

A part of this army has been on this river, actively engaged in examining its swamps and hammocks; since the 17th of last month, they have constructed



two forts, and erected bridges over both branches of the Ouithlacoochie.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your obedient servant.

THOS. S. JESUP,

Major General Commanding.

Brig. Gen. R. JONES,

Adjutant General, Washington city.

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
Fort Armstrong, Jan. 21, 1837.

SIR: I have this moment received, by express from Fort Drane, your letter of the 4th instant. I shall find Volusia a valuable depot in my future operations on the St. Johns and the Ocklawaha, to the swamps of which rivers all accounts concur that the enemy have retired. The troops have been actively employed, but we have accomplished little, except obtaining a knowledge of the country, and establishing a line of posts to command it.

I march at sunrise to-morrow morning for Hapaka, near the head of the Ocklawaha, where Miccanopy, Jumper, Alligator, and other chiefs, are said to have concentrated their forces. If we can bring them to action, the war may be soon terminated; but the danger is, they will disperse, as the Indians on the Ouithlacoochie have.

The prisoners say that some division exists in the councils of the chiefs, and that many of them are tired of the war. After showing them that we are able to follow them to their most secure retreats, I will endeavor to open a communication with them, and offer them peace.

I have ordered Lieutenant Colonel Fanning to move up the St. Johns to Tapikaliga, with the forces under his command, and as large supplies of subsistence and forage as he can transport, to attack the chief Philip, and co-operate with me.

Lieutenant Colonel Foster is in pursuit of the Tallahassee and Ogechees south of the Ouithlacoochie, and Major McClintock has been ordered to Fort Drane, to secure the depot, and drive the Indians from the adjacent country.

Two companies of Dragoons will be employed in clearing the country between the St. Johns and the Suwannee; and General Hernandez is charged with the defence of the country east of the St. Johns.

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,

Major General Commanding.

The Hon. B. F. BUTLER,

Secretary of War, Washington City.

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
Fort Armstrong, Jan. 21, 1837.  
Half past 9 o'clock, P. M.

SIR: An Indian runner has this moment come in from Lt. Colonel Foster's command, with intelligence of the troops having overtaken a party of hostile Indians and negroes, of which they killed two, and captured eleven Indians and nine negroes; the remainder escaped. The Indians are represented as desirous of peace, and I have directed Lt. Col. Foster to send one of the prisoners to invite them to come in.

I march to-morrow morning at sunrise to the head of the Ocklawaha.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant.

TH. S. JESUP,

Major General Commanding.

Brig. Gen. R. JONES,

Adjutant General, Washington city.

To the Editor of the Richmond Enquirer.

The communication of your Washington correspondent touching the merit and services of Capt. Thomas Ap. Catesby Jones, has just met my eye. No one

may doubt that praise so honorably won, should be pleasing to the mind of every American citizen. To have his deeds of bravery remembered, is to the warrior his solace and glory. While I was, therefore, gratified in perusing in your columns a just encomium on Captain Jones, I confess myself disappointed in not being able to learn either from the official description of the battle between the gunboats and the British barges, or from the recent correspondence between Capt. Jones and Lieut. Slidell, (in which reference is made to the capture of the former,) who were the several gallant commanders who so largely participated in the glory and sufferings of that day. It is true, that an imperfect enumeration of the number of guns, men, and commanders of the flotilla, is subjoined to the official letter; but even in that, as in the latter, the name of at least one brave officer, still living, is entirely omitted; although in the official letter the boat he commanded is mentioned by its number, as having continued the action long after the capture of Capt. Jones' boat, and as having been the last to surrender to the enemy! Capt. Jones is known to have been the senior officer in command; but should it not be known, let me ask, who were the men and what was done with them, who seconded him in that sanguinary fight? Are they dead and forgotten, or do they live to feel how evanescent is that glory for which they perilled life? They live—and if (from not being named in the official description of the battle) they are unknown to the great body of the people, they are recognised, at least, in the several communities in which they reside, by the mutilations and wounds obtained in that contest. Save Ulrich, they live; he, worn by climate and hardship, sunk fifteen years since into that grave, for which he bravely contended with the British barges. Ferris is now a lieutenant in the navy, promoted from a sailing master, so late as 1832, and respectable from his gray hairs, his exemplary conduct, and for his bravery in the battle. Spedden, who in the conflict lost one arm and was wounded in the other, but who refused to be taken below, and actually commanded sitting, when from loss of blood unable to stand, now fills a civil office at New Orleans. The people who had witnessed his courage and mutilation stepped forward in his behalf, and generously secured to this noble "sheer hulk" that competency which his lieutenant's commission denied him.

McKeever, who fought longest, and was the last to strike to the overwhelming force, but whose name neither appears in the official letter nor the subjoined list (as printed) is a master commandant in the navy; he too was wounded, but maintained his post on the quarter deck, long after victory had declared for the enemy. Shall we not remember the name and deeds of those gallant men, who now appear as leaders in the "forlorn hope," and while a wreath is twined for Jones, shall it not be enlarged to compass the brows of his brave colleagues in command? CANBY.

ARSENAL.—We learn from the Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer, that the construction of a new arsenal in that town has been actively commenced, and that a large number of workmen have been engaged, who are expected to complete the work in about four years. The site chosen is Haymount, at the top of Hay-street, about a mile from the town-house, and three miles from the bridge.

It will consist of about twenty-five buildings of all sizes, disposed upon the sides of a square five hundred feet in extent, and connected by a brick wall; the great house of deposit for the stores, occupying the centre of the square. The disbursement in the progress of the works will be from 75,000 to 100,000 dollars per annum until finished. It is to be not only an arsenal, or place for the deposit of warlike implements and munitions, but also the great place of construction for the south, and therefore of much greater magnitude than any arsenal in the country.

**FRENCH EXPLORING EXPEDITION.**—The *Charle* gives this account of the destination of a frigate fitting out at Brest:—"The *Venus* frigate, Capt. Dupetit Thouars, will shortly sail from Brest on a voyage of discovery. The increasing importance attached to the whale fishery, and the desire of advancing the interests of commerce generally have induced the Government to send the vessel to visit the different seas frequented by the whalers. The principal object of her voyage will be to afford protection to those ships; to maintain discipline among their often refractory crews, and in fact, to further the interest of that branch of industry by every means in their power. The *Venus* will visit the north-west coasts of America, in order to protect French trade, which begins to extend itself in that quarter, but where men-of-war seldom make their appearance. Thence she will proceed to the Aleutian Islands, and make a short stay at Kamtschatka. In addition to the support which the captain will be called on to give to our commercial interests, he will employ himself in acquiring such information as may be useful to the ends of science and to hydrography. An hydrographic engineer is to embark on board the *Venus*, who will be specially employed in making nautical observations and graphic works, to improve the charts now in our collections, and to add new ones."

### ARMY.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS.

Jan. 3. Surgeon H. A. Stiannecke, to Florida; and Surgeon A. W. Elves, as soon as his health will permit, for duty with the 2d regiment of dragoons in Florida.

Jan. 21. Ass't. Surgeon L. C. McPhail to relieve Ass't. Surgeon J. Eaton at Fort Mitchell, and the latter to repair to Fort Trumbull.

Feb. 9. Capt. R. D. C. Collins, 4th Infy., assigned to temporary Indian duty.

Feb. 11. Lt. Col. S. Burbank, 5th Infy., assigned to duty as superintendent of the Recruiting service, E. D.; and Col. E. Cutler, 4th Infy. to join his regiment as soon as relieved.

Lieut. C. B. Chalmers, 1st Arty. relieved from Ordinance duty, and assigned to duty at St. Augustine, on account of ill health.

Feb. 14. Capt. J. Bradley, 2d Infy. and P. Morrison, 4th Infy. members of the general court martial ordered to convene at Savannah on the 31st March.

Jan. 25. Lieut. R. H. K. Whitely to the command of the Augusta arsenal, Geo.

### NAVY.

#### ORDERS.

Feb. 2—Mid. E. G. Parrott, Naval School, New York.

4—Mid. W. D. Hurst, Naval School, New York.

6—Lieut. O. Burns, Mediterranean squadron.

Sailmaker S. B. Banister, frigate Macedonian.

Sailmaker James Davis, Navy Yard, Boston.

7—Lieut. John Kelly, detached from ship Boston.

8—Mid. W. R. Gardner, Naval School, Norfolk.

10—Mid. J. D. Johnston, do do.

15—Asst. Sur. G. W. Peete, Ordinary, do.

#### MARINE CORPS.

RESIGNATION.—Second Lieut. W. M. McArdle, 1st

February, 1837.

### DEATHS.

In Boston, on the 8th instant, Mrs. ELIZABETH WHITE, aged 51, wife of Lieut. JOHN WHITE, of the U. S. navy.

At Crittenden, Illinois, Mr. JOHN PATTERSON, Boatswain U. S. navy.

At Bangor, Maine, on the 27th ultimo, Mrs. MARY S. wife of Captain CHARLES THOMAS, of the U. S. Army, formerly of Philadelphia.

At Cincinnati, on the 15th ult. after 24 hours illness, G. E. PATTERSON, Esqr., son of Com. PATTERSON, of the U. S. Navy.

### TRANSPORTATION OF STORES.

NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,  
February, 1837.

**PROPOSALS**, sealed and endorsed, will be received at this office, until three o'clock P. M. of the 25th instant, for the transportation of provisions and stores to Mahon, to Rio de Janeiro, and to Valparaiso and Lima, if required to proceed to the latter port by the commanding naval officer, or the United States agent at Valparaiso.

The shipment to Mahon (including two anchors of about 25 cwt. each, and some lumber) will be made from the navy yard, Gosport, Virginia, in one or two vessels, at the option of the board, and will be in quantity or bulk equal to about six thousand seven hundred barrels; of which about four-tenths are wet barrels, and the residue in dry barrels or measurement goods.

The shipment to Rio de Janeiro will be made from the navy yard, Charlestown, Massachusetts, and will be in quantity or bulk equal to about one thousand five hundred barrels; of which about seven sixteenths are wet barrels, and the residue are dry barrels or measurement goods.

The shipment to Valparaiso and Lima will be made from the navy yard, Brooklyn, New York, and will be in quantity or bulk equal to about four thousand four hundred barrels; of which about three-fourths are wet barrels, and the residue are dry barrels or measurement goods.

The vessels offered must be able to carry the full amount of freight destined for the places for which they are offered. The capacity in barrels of each vessel offered must be specified, and their names and the place where they are then lying; and if they should prove insufficient to carry the full quantity for which they are offered, ten per cent to be deducted from the price, payable to the charter party, to cover the injury to the United States, but no freight to be paid beyond the amount due for articles which may be actually carried.

The rate or standing at the insurance offices must be stated, and no vessel will be accepted, until satisfactory reports shall be received of their capacity and character, after surveys by order of the commissioners of the navy shall be made.

The vessels taken up for the respective voyages must, respectively, be at the navy yard, Gosport, Virginia, by the fifteenth day of March next, and at the navy yards, Charlestown, Massachusetts, and Brooklyn, New York, by the 20th day of March next, ready to commence loading, when the cargoes must be taken on board promptly, and without any avoidable delay; and they may be delivered from the tackles of the vessels at the respective places of delivery.

The offers must specify the price asked for all barrels round, without discrimination of wet or dry barrels, or measurement goods; and also the price asked per ton of two thousand pounds for the anchors to Mahon; five and a half cubic feet of measurement goods, and thirty gallons to the gauge of all casks not usually called barrels, whatever they may contain, to be considered as barrels.

No primage will be allowed, nor must any be asked in the proposals.

The freight money will be paid in the United States by the respective navy agents near the navy yards, whence the shipments shall have been made, or at such other place as shall be directed, on certificates of the safe delivery of the respective cargoes, agreeably to the bills of lading, signed by the United States navy storekeeper, or the senior naval officer present at the places of delivery, being exhibited to the navy agents respectively.

Fifteen lay days to be allowed, exclusive of Sundays and holidays, at Port Mahon and Rio de Janeiro, and at each of the ports of Valparaiso and Lima, should both ports be used.

\* And the offers must specify the rate of demurrage to be demanded in case of greater detention.

Feb. 16—td

**JOHN SMITH, (LATE OF WEST POINT.)**  
RETURNS his thanks to the Officers of the Army for their long and liberal patronage, and having commenced business at No. 85, Maiden Lane, New York, will be happy to receive their orders.

His place of business being changed, all outstanding debts are particularly requested to be settled.

April 14—ly\*